

Application No. 09/608,135
Amendment dated June 28, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated March 3, 2004
Express Mail EV406652195US

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for collecting network usage data without associating personally identifiable information with the usage data comprising:
 - obtaining an identifier representing one or more users of a computer network;
 - creating an anonymized identifier using the obtained identifier;
 - collecting data being transmitted across the computer network;
 - associating the anonymized identifier with the collected data if the collected data is sent to or from the one or more users to create a transaction record; and
 - storing the transaction record in a database.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained identifier is a Mobile Subscriber Integrated Services Digital Network (MSISDN) number.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained identifier is a static Internet Protocol (IP) address.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the anonymized identifier is created by applying a one-way hashing function to the obtained identifier.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the anonymized identifier is created by applying a one-way hashing function to the obtained identifier and a security key.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Secure Hashing Algorithm 1 (SHA-1).
7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Message Digest 4 (MD4) algorithm.

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8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Message Digest 5 (MD5) algorithm.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the one-way hashing function is the Digital Encryption Standard (DES).

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of obtaining an identifier representing one or more users of a computer network includes:

- receiving packets sent by an authentication server;
- extracting an identifier from the received packets.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the authentication server is a RADIUS authentication server.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the received packets are RADIUS authentication packets.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the authentication server is a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for collecting computer network usage data without associating personally identifiable information with the usage data comprising:

- identifying a user of a computer network;
- creating an anonymized identifier representing the identified user of the computer network and said anonymized identifier being identified with a classification; and
- storing network transaction data associated with an anonymized identifier in accordance with said classification.

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15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 14, wherein the classification is a geographical location.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the geographical location is a Census block group code.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the geographical location is a state.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 14, wherein the classification is a zip code.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 14, wherein the classification includes a telephone area code.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 14, wherein the classification includes a telephone exchange.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 14, wherein the classification includes one from the group consisting of: wireless, satellite, dialup, DSL, and ISDN.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 14, wherein the classification is a job function code.

24. (Original) A method for associating anonymized identifiers to a classification, comprising:

obtaining an identifier representing one or more users of a computer network;
creating a first anonymized identifier using the obtained identifier;

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creating a classification record by associating a classification with the first anonymized identifier; and
storing the classification record in a database.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

creating a second anonymized identifier using the first anonymized identifier;
collecting data being transmitted across the computer network;
associating the second anonymized identifier with the collected data if the collected data is sent to or from the one or more users to create a transaction record; and
storing the transaction record in a database.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer system for collecting network usage data without associating personally identifiable information with the usage data comprising:

a communication port coupled to a computer network, the computer network providing access to one or more servers;
one or more processors; and
a memory containing computer instructions that
identify a user of the computer network;
create an anonymized identifier representing the identified user of the computer network, on said anonymized identifier being identified with a classification; and
store network transaction data associated with an anonymized identifier in accordance with said classification.

27. (New) A method for collecting computer network usage data without associating personally identifiable information with the usage data, comprising:

identifying a user of a computer network;
creating an anonymized identifier representing the identified user of the computer network, and said anonymized identifier being identified with a classification which is at

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least one of a zip code, telephone area code, telephone exchange, a job function code, one from the group consisting of wireless, satellite, dialup, DSL and ISDN, and a geographical location comprised of at least one of a Census block group code and a state; and

storing network transaction data associated with an anonymized identifier in accordance with such classification.